



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

General physiology.

THE RECEPTION by both European and American biologists of Verworn's *Allgemeine Physiologie* upon its publication late in 1895 was very cordial. The book awakened so widespread an interest that within three years a second edition was issued. This second edition has now been translated and edited by Dr. Frederic S. Lee, of Columbia University.¹ In its English dress the book will doubtless commend itself still further to English readers. Certainly it will put within reach of general readers a work that will give a better idea of the scope of physiology, and one that will present to special students readable and stimulating discussions of physiological problems.

The work may be called a treatise upon "general" physiology only in the peculiar sense that it discusses the general as opposed to the special functions of the cell. It does not deal with the functions of organs at all. On the whole the phrase *general cell physiology* would seem to describe it better.

It is a pleasure to find an animal physiologist who is yet to a reasonable degree familiar with plant physiology. But it is not for the views of plant function nor even for the facts adduced that the book may be commended to botanists. In these fields, indeed, one feels that Professor Verworn is traversing rather unfamiliar ground, in which he sometimes loses his way, to the leading astray of the unwary. Nevertheless the ability and suggestiveness of the book make it one which botanists inclined at all to physiology will do well to read. Professor Verworn has a luminous way of saying things, and while what he says sometimes suggests what not to say, more often his apt applications indicate others which he has not expressed.

The subjects treated, after an interesting introductory chapter on the aims and methods of physiological research, are as follows: living substance; its composition and the differences between living and lifeless substances; elementary vital phenomena, namely the phenomena of metabolism, of the changes of form, and of the transformation of energy; the general conditions

¹ VERWORN, MAX.—General physiology, an outline of the science of life. Translated from the second German edition and edited by FREDERIC S. LEE. 8vo. pp. xvi + 615. figs. 285. London and New York: The Macmillan Company. \$4.00. 1899]

of life, including a discussion of the origin of life and the history of death ; stimuli and their actions ; and the mechanism of life.

No detailed discussion of the book need be entered upon, since it is already fairly well known in the original form. The translation has been admirably done by Professor Lee. The smooth and readable German of Verworn has been converted into easy and idiomatic English.—C. R. B.

Some popular books.

ALICE LOUNSBERRY is the author of *A guide to the wild flowers*² recently published. Mrs. Ellis Bowan has had charge of the illustrations, which consist of sixty-four colored and one hundred black and white plates, and fifty-four diagrams. Dr. N. L. Britton has written a brief introduction. The numerous attempts to provide easy and interesting ways of recognizing plants indicate a real demand and one that is very hopeful. Nature study is finding a prominent place in the schools, and any book which stimulates it properly is to be commended. The plants selected for this book are well illustrated and fairly well described, and should be recognized easily by the intelligent observer. Although strictly taxonomic, the plants are presented in ecological groups ; as for example, "plants growing in water," "plants growing in moist soil," "plants growing in dry soil," etc., etc.—J. M. C.

ANOTHER RECENT book intended to encourage Nature study is *Field, forest, and wayside flowers*,³ by Maud Going (E. M. Hardinge). It professes to be "untechnical studies for unlearned lovers of nature," and is a charming book. The author does not deal in the usual fairy tales, but evidently knows what things are and what they are for, so far as current knowledge goes. The titles of the chapters are suggestive of the topical character of the book. A few of them are as follows : crocuses, dandelions, the flowering of the forest trees, green leaves at work, grasses, climbing plants, a handful of weeds, in winter woods, etc. The photographs are especially excellent, and some of our common plants are made to stand out with remarkable distinctness. The book can be commended to all those who wish to come into contact with nature in an untechnical way, and also to teachers in charge of nature study.—J. M. C.

EDWARD KNOBEL has attempted to make the identification of the grasses, sedges, and rushes of the northern United States an easy matter.⁴ The plates

² *A guide to the wild flowers.* 8vo. pp. xvii + 347. New York : Frederick A. Stokes Company. 1899.

³ *Field, forest, and wayside flowers.* 8vo. pp. xvi + 411. New York : The Baker & Taylor Company. 1899. \$1.50.

⁴ *The grasses, sedges, and rushes of the northern U. S.* 8vo. pp. 78. *pl.* 28. Boston : Bradlee Whidden. 1899. \$1.00.